IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended)   A method for managing annotations for multiple versions of documents, comprising:

selecting one or more annotation versioning policies dictating how annotations made for a current version of a document are <u>carried forward</u> applied, by operation of one or more computer processors[[,]] to a subsequent version of the document, wherein the subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to substantive content of the current version of the document<u>, and wherein carrying the annotations forward comprises:</u>

<u>storing or updating, for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising:</u>

<u>(i) an annotation of the annotations made for the current version of the document;</u>

<u>(ii) an index that identifies positions in the subsequent version of the document;</u>

<u>(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) an annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document, corresponding to the annotation; and</u>

<u>(iv) a versioning policy attribute;</u> and

allowing creators of annotations for [[a]] <u>the</u> current version of [[a]] <u>the</u> document to select one or more of the annotation versioning policies to dictate how the annotations are <u>carried forward</u> applied, by operation of the one or more computer processors, to subsequent versions of the document.

10.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that annotations made for a current version will not be ~~applied~~ carried forward to subsequent versions of the document.

11.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more annotation versioning policies selected are ~~applied at~~ carried forward to the document level, to all annotations created for a document.

12.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that an annotation created for a current version of a document will be ~~applied~~ carried forward to subsequent versions of the document.

13.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that an authorized user must validate an annotation created for a current version of a document before the annotation is ~~applied~~ carried forward to subsequent versions of the document.

14-24. (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently Amended)   A method for managing annotations for multiple versions of documents, comprising:

defining a set of available annotation policies, each dictating how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward ~~applied,~~ by operation of one or more computer processors[[,]] to one or more subsequent versions of the document, wherein each subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to substantive content of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the annotation forward comprises:

storing or updating, for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising:

(i) the annotation created for the current version of the document;

(ii) an index that identifies positions in the subsequent version of the document;

(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) a corresponding annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document; and

(iv) a versioning policy attribute; and

providing an interface allowing a user to select one or more of the available annotation policies to be carried forward applied, by operation of the one or more computer processors, to the annotation;

receiving the current version of the document;

determining, by operation of one or more computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and

upon determining that the annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the document.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein defining a set of available annotation policies comprises associating one or more annotation policies for use with annotations made for a certain type of document.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined, at least in part, on a credential of the user.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined, at least in part, on a type of document associated with the annotation.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein defining a set of available annotation policies comprises defining the set of available annotation policies by an administrator, wherein the administrator and the user are different entities.

30.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the annotation versioning policies dictates that an annotation created for a current version of a document and ~~applied~~ carried forward to a subsequent version of the document includes a marker indicating that the annotation in the subsequent version of the document is unvalidated.

31.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 30, wherein the marker is included in the annotation in the subsequent version of the document until an authorized user validates the annotation created for the current version of the document.

32.   (Currently Amended)   A computer readable storage medium containing a program which, when executed, performs an operation for managing annotations for multiple versions of documents, comprising:

defining a set of available annotation policies, each dictating how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward ~~applied, by operation of one or more computer processors,~~ to one or more subsequent versions of the document, wherein each subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to substantive content of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the annotation forward comprises:

storing or updating, for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising:

(i) the annotation created for the current version of the document;

(ii) an index that identifies positions in the subsequent version of the document;

(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) a corresponding annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document; and

(iv) a versioning policy attribute; and

providing an interface allowing a user to select one or more of the available annotation policies to be <u>carried forward</u> ~~applied, by operation of the one or more computer processors,~~ to the annotation<u>;</u>

<u>receiving the current version of the document;</u>

<u>determining, by operation of one or more computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and</u>

<u>upon determining that the annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the document.</u>

33.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein defining a set of available annotation policies comprises associating one or more annotation policies for use with annotations made for a certain type of document.

34.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined, at least in part, on a credential of the user.

35.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined, at least in part, on a type of document associated with the annotation.

36.   (Previously Presented)   The computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the set of available annotation policies is defined based on user input from an administrator, wherein the administrator and the user are different entities.

37.   (Currently Amended)   A system, comprising:

a computer processor; and

a memory containing a program, which when executed by the computer processor is configured to perform an operation for compensating for managing annotations for multiple versions of documents, comprising:

defining a set of available annotation policies, each dictating how an annotation created for a current version of a document are carried forward applied, by operation of one or more computer processors, to one or more subsequent versions of the document, wherein each subsequent version of the document includes one or more revisions to substantive content of the current version of the document, and wherein carrying the annotation forward comprises:

storing or updating, for the subsequent version of the document, an annotation record comprising:

(i) the annotation created for the current version of the document;

(ii) an index that identifies positions in the subsequent version of the document;

(iii) a change detection value for detecting revisions to: (A) the subsequent version of the document or (B) a corresponding annotated portion of the subsequent version of the document; and

(iv) a versioning policy attribute; and

providing an interface allowing a user to select one or more of the available annotation policies to be carried forward applied, by operation of the one or more computer processors, to the annotation;

receiving the current version of the document;

determining, by operation of one or more computer processors, whether the annotations in the current version of the document are to be carried forward to the subsequent version of the document; and

upon determining that the annotations are to be carried forward, carrying the annotations forward to the subsequent version of the document.

38.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 37, wherein defining a set of available annotation policies comprises associating one or more annotation policies for use with annotations made for a certain type of document.

39.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 37, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined, at least in part, on a credential of the user.

40.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 39, wherein the annotation policies provided to the user in the interface is determined, at least in part, on a type of document associated with the annotation.

41.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 37, wherein the set of available annotation policies is defined based on user input from an administrator, wherein the administrator and the user are different entities.